

carefully constructed near each end of the mass, the use of which will be now explained. All having been apparently arranged for the female fish to spawn, and the operations of fanning out the light particles, the improving their order, the dibbing in the ends, the loading them with additional sand, and the consolidation of them as described fully effected, and the whole reviewed carefully for several days in succession, as it were awaiting the coming of the female, on her appearance the following curious scene ensued. The female fish came out of her hiding-place, her attention being fixed apparently on the nest, when immediately the male became as it were mad with delight; he darted round her in every direction, then to his accumulated materials, slightly adjusted them, fanned them, and then back again in an instant; this was repeated several times; as she did not advance to the nest, he endeavoured to push her in that direction with his snout; this not succeeding, he took her by the tail and by the side spine and tried to pull her to the spot, then back to the nest, and having examined the two small openings alluded to, he thrust his nose in at the lower and gradually drew himself under the whole of the materials, making his exit at the opposite one, as though to prove to her that everything was prepared for her spawning. These manœuvres, however, failed in their purpose; she examined the nest several times; but the appearance of the minnows, &c. moving about on the other side of the glass partition against which the nest had been formed, I believe deterred her from depositing her eggs there, and she afterwards spawned elsewhere. The nest which had cost so much trouble was ultimately abandoned and neglected, and was gradually dispersed by the snails.

There are several other interesting particulars regarding the habits of the several fish, &c., which I have had the opportunity of experimenting with, and which may form the subject of some future memoranda. I would merely remark in conclusion, that I have after many difficulties and failures succeeded in keeping sea-water perfectly clear for upwards of six months, and that I have for the last five weeks had several sea-anemones living in it which at present appear extremely healthy, and the water has not been disturbed for the last fourteen days. My great difficulty in the midst of London has been to obtain materials to work with.

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XXVII.—*Description of a new species of Wart Pig from the Camaroons.* By J. E. GRAY, Ph.D., V.P.Z.S.

THE Zoological Society has recently received, from the Camaroon River in West Africa, a new, and, for the family, a very beautiful species of Pig, which appears to be undescribed. It belongs to

the genus *Choiropotamus*, which is characterized by the males being furnished with a large bony protuberance on each side of the face, about middle distance between the end of the nose and the eyes; both sexes have elongated, rapidly attenuated ears, ending in a pencil of long hairs; the tail is thick, long and placed high up the back.

The position of the tail and the lengthened form of the ears at once distinguish these animals from the true Pigs (*Sus*), which always have a slender tail, and small, hairy, rounded ears.

The *Choiropotami* are confined to Africa, while the species of *Sus* have only hitherto been found in the European and Asiatic quarters of the world.

The Camaroon Wart Pig, *Choiropotamus pictus*. Uniform red brown; the face, forehead, ears, and some large blotches on the legs black; the edge of the ears, whiskers, streak over and under the eyes, and a continued, rather crested streak along the middle of the back, pure white.

*Hab.* The Camaroon River, West Africa. A male.

This is immediately known from the *Choiropotamus larvatus* of South Africa by the brightness of the colour, the latter being black, whitish washed, white on the side of the face, with a large black spot under the eyes. *Sus Koiropotamus* of Desmoulin without the protuberances on the face is the female of this species; the African Hog of Daniel's 'African Scenery,' t. ii., being the adult male.

XXVIII.—*Description of Sauresia, a new genus of Scincidæ from St. Domingo.* By J. E. GRAY, Ph.D., F.R.S., V.P.Z.S.

THIS genus is described from a specimen brought from St. Domingo by M. Salle intermixed with other reptiles. Though imported by a French collector and bought from Paris, I do not find any description of it in the second part of the Catalogue of Lizards lately published by M. Dumeril and his nephew M. Auguste Dumeril, which contains the species of this family.

It belongs to the well-marked tribe of *Diploglossine*, characterized by the hard, minutely striated scales; but it differs from all the genera of that tribe at present known, in having very weak feet with only four rudimentary toes, being in fact the representative of the genus *Seps* in the other tribes, and forming a good passage between *Diploglossus* and *Ophiodes*.

**SAURESIA.** Body and tail cylindrical elongate; limbs four, short, weak, far apart; toes 4.4, anterior toes very short, two middle longest, subequal, interior shorter; hinder very unequal,